

DANTE B. FASCELL NORTH-SOUTH
CENTER ACT OF 1991

SPEECH OF

HON. SAM GEJDENSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 12, 1998

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of legislation to rename the North/South Center at the University of Miami the "Dante B. Fascell North/South Center."

I had the honor of serving with Congressman Dante Fascell who represented the people of Florida and the nation for 38 years. He was my colleague, my Chairman on the House Foreign Affairs Committee, and my friend. I am particularly pleased that the University of Miami has chosen to honor the "father" of the North/South Center in this most appropriate way.

When Dante assumed the helm of the House Foreign Affairs Committee in 1983, its character changed from its predecessor's leadership. As a December 10, 1983 Congressional Quarterly article stated, "Fascell . . . is a strong-willed legislator who has mastered the techniques of compromise and persuasion." Further, the article speaks of his emphasis on a bi-partisan approach to foreign policy—a significant influence not only on his colleagues in Congress, but on his creation of the North/South Center.

By the time he became chairman of the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Inter-American Affairs, he was already a leader in the House on Latin American issues. His interest and expertise in this area as well as the importance of the relationship between these nations and the United States spurred Dante's vision for the creation of the North/South Center at the University of Miami—has alma mater.

Dante always seized opportunities to promote democratic ideals around the globe. Fascell foresaw a Center that would promote democracy, recognize the essential nature of the relationship between the United States and Latin America and the Caribbean, and improve understanding between the northern and southern hemispheres through the scholarly exchange of ideas. He conceived in institution that would not merely be a debating society, but would make solid contributions to American public policy. The unique North/South Center at the University of Miami sponsors conferences and publishes materials relating to a wide array of foreign policy issues. It has served as a resource for policy makers in several Administrations and Congresses.

Dante Fascell was the type of Congressman we all endeavor to be—he fought tirelessly for his constituents and he put the interests of the nation and its citizens above all else. Renaming the North/South Center in honor of Dante Fascell is extremely timely, appropriate and most deserved. I enthusiastically support this legislation and wish Dante all the best.

ADDING BRONCHIOLO-ALVEOLAR
CARCINOMA TO LIST OF SERV-
ICE-CONNECTED DISEASES

SPEECH OF

HON. LANE EVANS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 14, 1998

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise in strong support of H.R. 559 which will provide a presumption of service-connection for atomic veterans who suffer from an extremely rare form of nonsmokers' lung cancer. Benefits will be available to the surviving dependents of these veterans who have died of this disease.

I commend the author of this bill, Mr. SMITH, for his tireless efforts on behalf of these veterans and their dependents. I also thank the Chairman of the Committee, Mr. STUMP, for bringing this bill to the floor.

In addition to strongly supporting this measure, I also hope Congress will soon address presumption of service-connection for the illnesses listed in H.R. 4368, the Justice for Atomic Veterans Act of 1998, which I introduced on July 31, 1998. It is well known that the Department of Defense, as well as the VA, refused for many years to acknowledge the serious health risk resulting from exposure to nuclear testing and other radiation risk activities.

Many veterans have been unable to obtain even medical records relating to their exposure during military service. It is not the fault of these veterans that accurate records of their exposure were not kept and maintained. Records which were considered essential for veterans to prove claims of service-connection for disability benefits were kept classified, since information concerning the adverse effects of radiation might have jeopardized future use of nuclear energy.

The time to redress these injustices has long since passed. H.R. 559 will provide justice to a small group of veterans. Congress can and should do more to compensate those veterans who have sacrificed their health, and in some cases their lives, on behalf of our Nation. I urge all of my colleagues to support this measure.

TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSMAN
HARRIS FAWELL

SPEECH OF

HON. PHILIP M. CRANE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 15, 1998

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, because I was not able to come to the floor at the time our colleagues offered their special testimony honoring my good friend, HARRIS FAWELL, I wish to add my tribute to their words of admiration and praise.

During his fourteen industrious years of dedicated effort in solving some of the most complex and challenging problems one can find on this Hill, HARRIS has been the acknowledged mentor of many of us in our attempt to understand some of the more difficult problems we face in the Congress. In matters such as labor law, labor relations, health insurance, retirement savings, education, waste in gov-

ernment, and other issues fraught with complicated technical questions, many of us turned to HARRIS for his wise counsel. His legendary ability to explain and interpret the most intricate details with great clarity was the result of his commitment to working hard to master the difficult and the abstruse.

Mr. Speaker, one measure of a man's ability to make a difference in this Congress—or anywhere in this world—is how he is looked upon by his own staff. One of our fellow Illinoisians, JOHN SHIMKUS, read a testimony on the floor the other day which was written by the members of HARRIS' staff. Here is just part of that expression of respect and love which the FAWELL staffers displayed in the tribute:

In these cynical times, it is easy for staffers to become disillusioned with government service. Working with you has shown us how an honest and caring man of integrity can still make a difference here in Washington. Our time with you has maintained our faith in leadership.

The staff referred to HARRIS' kindness, humility and quiet leadership, and said further,

Harris, they say that the ship reflects the captain. We count ourselves lucky to have been on the Fawell ship. We can only hope that we have been a reflection of you and that we will be, even as you sail on other seas.

This is remarkably touching testimonial to the quiet strength and goodness which his colleagues have long since found in the representative from the Thirteenth District of Illinois. Many of us hope that we might be worthy of such a tribute from our staffs when we, too, find it is time to sail on other seas.

After the retirement of our old friend, John Erlenborn, HARRIS took over his place on what is now the Committee on Education and the Work Force, and in tandem with Chairman BILL GOODLING, has made the Committee the source of many strong legislative initiatives for the good of the American citizens, particularly in the area of education.

Mr. JERRY SOLOMON, our very good friend who is also going to be missed so much in the future, has said that he always knew that he could do no wrong in voting the same way HARRIS did, because HARRIS "never came to this floor without being prepared." Such is the kind of trust his colleagues continuously felt in HARRIS' judgment.

Through his no-nonsense early concern about federal waste, and with his invention of the "Pork Busters" program, HARRIS started the beginning initiatives leading to today's balanced budget success. His colleagues know how hard he has worked to make this a more frugal government, and the constituents in his district will surely miss this kind of leadership on their behalf.

Mr. Speaker, there are endless additional reasons why this Congress will have a hard time filling the void which will be left when this good man sails on to other seas. His will surely be the greater enjoyment during retirement because he will have the satisfaction of knowing that he has served his country, his colleagues, and his constituents so very well. We send him on his way with favorable winds at his back, and bid him a heart-felt God bless, HARRIS, and Godspeed!